Farewell and Hail

Our link with the National Council of Social Service has always been close and cordial, sealed in terms of personal friendship with its Director, Sir GEORGE HAYNES. He was, it will be remembered, a member of the Toc H Forward Committee in 1954, which produced the report, *Something to Bite On*, thereby helping to dislodge some of our "fixed images" and opening the way for much new thinking. Under his leadership times without number the N.C.S.S. has helped us by its interpretation of new government legislation, and frequently by taking up the cudgels on behalf of the voluntary societies. The most recent and memorable occasion was last year when he fought and won the battle over exemption from the Selective Employment Tax.

When it was announced recently that Sir George was going into well-earned retirement our regret was deep and sincere. We are truly grateful for all his friendship and wish him a long and active retirement. Naturally we have wondered who would succeed him, and to our surprise and pleasure it turns out to be another whose friendship to Toc H has already been proven, as anyone who worked with Toc H War Services in Burma during the last war will gladly testify. He is J. K. OWENS who, as senior Welfare Officer with 33 Indian Corps, worked in close touch with us there and was responsible for pioneering one of the most imaginative undertakings of our work in the forward areas—the Toc H Mobile Clubs. The first of these, staffed by George Bennett and Garry Fifer, was attached to the 7th Indian Division and proved so successful on the ever-changing Burma front that similar Clubs were set up in nearly every other Division.

Since the end of the war 'J. K.' has held a senior post with the Derbyshire Education Authority and he now comes to London to take up this key position in the country's structure of voluntary and statutory social services. To him our greetings and good wishes. ¶

Dry Rot

The response to the Appeal to make good the damage by dry rot to the Old House (February JOURNAL) is gathering momentum. From a General Member in Hampshire comes a cheerful donation and an anecdote to match. He writes that, round about 1938, TUBBY was in Malta, and went aboard the H.M.S. *Penelope* (to become famous in World War II history of Malta as "H.M.S. *Pepper-pot*"). Just as he was about to address an open air gathering on one of the upper decks down came the rain and from Tubby the words: "Well at least there won't be any dry rot from this pulpit".

New Leader at Loch Eil

With the recent departure of ALAN HILL for Toc H in Canada this is a good moment to salute him for his sound pioneering that built up Loch Eil from a small experimental course for some twenty boys, housed in wartime huts, in 1962, to virtually all-the-year-round courses for sixty boys at a time, magnificently housed, staffed and equipped. We are glad to report that Alan's successor as Warden is Lt.-Col. GEORGE DUNLOP, M.C., late of the Royal Scots. We are sure that the link with Toc H will remain close—we shall continue to be represented on the Board of Management by Col. John Davies, Bob Leslie and Lyndsay Orr. Further contact and linked activities will be maintained through Neil McNeil of our Scottish staff. All Toc H will ¶ wish Loch Eil and its new leader good adventuring in the days ahead.

The Spirit of Christmas

Many readers will know that each Christmas boys at some of our affiliated schools themselves provide and send off parcels to homeless boys in Borstal so that not one boy goes without. A school in Manchester goes one better; its Toc H Correspondent wrote at the end of November last:

"Last year we not only provided Christmas parcels for all the boys in the Centre over Christmas but we were pleased to take the opportunity of making personal contact with the staff and boys just before the end of school term. We hired a coach to take along a soccer team together with netball and table-tennis players, all drawn from the sixth form. Very close and exciting games were played in a fine spirit of friendly rivalry, and after refreshments the coach returned home.

"The sportsmen were then replaced by a group of singers, who went over by private cars arriving at about five p.m. The day's 'get-together' was rounded off with the most enthusiastic carol singing I have ever taken part in. The "Centre" boys enjoyed every minute of it and the response to our call for volunteers to take the solo parts in 'Good King Wenceslas' was nothing short of staggering! Needless to say, we are making the same arrangements for Christmas 1966, with the possible addition of instrumental items to the evening's musical entertainment."

To Give a Cutting Edge

The hundreds of press cuttings about Toc H that we see each month, some from the national dailies but the great majority from local weeklies, vary enormously in standard. Occasionally the report (or photograph) is of great interest and well worth following up with the JOURNAL in mind, which we try to do. But the greater portion of the cuttings are of routine unimaginativeness and couched in a familiar pattern.

"Toc H. The—Branch met on—day at—. The speaker was Mr.—who spoke on—. Mr.—was in the chair and Mr.—took Light."

Now the value of such a report is minimal; about the only positive thing is that it tells the casual reader that a Toc H Branch exists, though he can't do much about that particular meeting—it's already happened. So if a Branch wants to go on with that sort of press publicity, and the local paper is willing to oblige, why not advance by at least one stage and announce what will be happening the following week, not what happened last week? It is just possible that someone, somewhere, might be curious enough to come along—and get hooked.

In Clover

From a recent press cutting we learn that the QUADRING PIG CLUB in Lincolnshire has been wound up after over a hundred years of active life. Its encouragement of back-garden pig keeping by farm workers and others reached its peak during the last war, with some hundred-and-thirty pigs on the books. The crux of our story is that the four surviving members of the Club decided to hand over their total capital, £156, to the local Toc H Branch, to be invested for the benefit of the old people in the village. It's nice to think that the demise of the Pig Club may prove to be the saving of many an old person's bacon!

THE EDITOR

April Foolery

No man was more beloved, both in Toc H and in Scouting, than 'Pat' Leonard, one-time Administrative Padre of Toc H and later Bishop of Thetford. From Colonel J. S. Wilson, a General member of Toc H and a former Camp Chief of Gilwell Park, now living in retirement in Kent, comes this vintage piece of April humour, written over thirty years ago:

READING BRANCH, TOC H

With this DEED OF DECLARATION:

We the High Court of the Most Noble Order of the Biscuit instituted within the Reading Branch of Toc H request and require in these names all those whom it may concern to allow the Right Reverend Brother Pat Leonard, to pass freely, love widely, build bravely, think fairly, witness humbly, without let or hindrance and to afford him the assistance and protection which he will most certainly need.

Further he is entitled to the privileges and rights of a Master of the Most Noble Order for as long as he fulfils and obeys the following commandments:—

1. To be a good Pat—*Per ardua ad astra.*
2. No more to be a fast Padre (in his car)—*Festina lente.*
3. To renew his licence when the law requires—*Ave atque vale.*
4. To preach good sermons—*Cum grano salis.*
5. To endeavour to convert the H.Q. staff to a quiet and Christian life—*Spa certa quid melius.*
6. Not to breed any more rabbits—*Mutanda prolis.*
7. To assist the High Court once a year.
8. To give twelve months' warning of his intentions to terminate the bachelor state—*Non nobis.*
9. To return all the spoons he takes—*Sed libera nos a malo.*
10. To leave behind his grin because we find it infectious.

To this Charter we set our seal and sign manual in this year of grace 1930 on the 1st day of April, which is the Feast of All Fools.

(signed)

A. F. Sillem,
Brian Rendell,
Geo. H. S. Burrow,
Robertson Bullock,
F. A. Linsell,
Walter Watford,
A. T. Redgrove,
A. R. M. Bainton,
Reginald J. Goele,
? Brown.

Hovis

the golden hearted taste

Brummies

HARVEY PRITCHARD

This article by a Volunteer from Clifton College is reproduced by kind permission of "The Cliftonian".

WE HAD BEEN in Birmingham for about five days when I found myself standing at the end of a long, drab street of red-brick houses, just outside number 211. It could have been any street within half a mile of the centre of Birmingham; they were all the same, two up, two down, meagre back-to-back houses stretching as far as the eye could see. If I had been at the corner I could have seen exactly the same. This was only interrupted by small noisy factories, set at regular intervals down the street, vibrating, dominating. They were the cause and the curse of the street. They provided the wage packet and the eternal monotony. Machine-made were their finished products, man-made was their unfinished hell.

My thoughts were interrupted. Ricky joined me. He knocked on the rather unsteady door of 211. What did I expect to find inside? I didn't really know. The dirty green door seemed to have rotted into position, and a little girl, playing in the gutter, mumbled something about "Try round the back". In a derelict alley we found the back door. Six pathetic little children cowered in the corner while their mother showed us upstairs. The sight and the smell were foul. I was shocked. I must have shown it on my face and I felt ashamed. Ricky was used to this and seemed undisturbed. All preconceived ideas were shattered. This was the home of an English family, they were fellow Englishmen.

We measured the walls for redecorating.

What kind of paper did she want?

The reply was a hopeless "Don't mind", though in another house it had been "Whatever is cheapest".

Would she like flowers?

Yes, that would do.

Could we come tomorrow?

Any time.

And with that we left.

I tried to convince myself that this was an extreme case, but I knew that it was not. Much of Birmingham was like this: too much. Three of us worked in that house for two days. It was a pathetic situation. Mother had given up the struggle with life, while the children, filthy and uncontrollable, fended for themselves. They had no playthings; their only play space was on the bare street or on the stones in the smelly back yard, and the youngest girl frequently wet the floor of the only really habitable room in the house. The others instinctively cleaned up the mess. Mother never knew. Father was out at work. This was the home of an English family; they were fellow Englishmen.

The Main Task

During our ten days' stay in Birmingham we decorated other houses and cleaned and repainted some 200 feet of railings. Some of us were employed at the Youth Club and new housing estate, decorating and helping with meals on wheels. But our main task was to make a social survey of the people who lived in 1,000 new flats. The information was vital for social work, but direct questions could not be asked. Dubious faces appeared from behind locked and chained doors. The attitude of people was often resentful and harsh.

What did we want?

It was hard to explain that the information we needed was for their own good.

Where did we come from?

I half expected to get the door slammed in my face.

It was hard to believe that only three years previously these same people had sat on front door steps and stood at street corners,

gossiping to one another. Now they locked themselves away in their tower blocks of flats; too embittered to make new relationships, they were cut off from one another, from life and from love.

The real importance of this ten days' visit was not just in the newly papered room at number 211, the bright green railings, or the clean rooms at the Youth Club, but in the very people we met. It did not really matter that it was an organisation called Toc H that had brought us together to work in Birmingham. What was important was that we were brought together, to meet each other, and to meet some Brummies who for a moment shared their lives and their difficulties with us.

Around the World *Toc H Overseas*

FROM RHODESIA

How hard the recent untimely death of Robin Murphy, our staff man for Rhodesia and Zambia, has hit the members there is well expressed in this tribute from John Bowman, Honorary Warden of the Toc H House in Bulawayo.

"In the short time Robin was with us he rekindled in us the enthusiasm and conviction in Toc H, which in himself were so strong. Still a young man, he told us of his coming into Toc H through a senior school bicycle expedition to Poperinge, and of the wonderful inspiration the Old House gave him, sufficient to change the outlook and course of his life and eventually from Branch membership to full-time Toc H work in Germany.

"Whilst in Germany he heard of our request for a full-timer and arrived in Rhodesia in October 1964. With territory to cover many times the size of Britain, and with the charge to rekindle the flames, he needed the conviction that God was indeed with him and with Toc H. Branches were rekindled a thousand miles apart—Broken Hill, Lusaka, Gwelo.

"Jubilee Year was celebrated in Central Africa by the visit of a Toc H Team from the U.K., coinciding with expansion projects in Zambia and Rhodesia. It may have been at this time that Robin's great spirit demanded too much from that tall familiar frame.

"His leadership was not just advice from the rear, but with sleeves rolled and back bent, getting to know men in the real way—working, talking. Even the glass of beer in the evening was to cheer Toc H. I once wrote to our Chairman in Central Africa: 'We are fortunate to have a full-timer who seems to think he should work twenty-four hours a day.'

"Perhaps Robin's greatest conviction was that the future of Toc H lay in getting its ideals and principles into young people. It was in this field he was working when illness ended his crusade. Local Toc H enthusiasts had surveyed the field of voluntary jobs which could be undertaken by young people, and two jobs were under way.

"Early in 1966 Robin was due for a stint in Bulawayo with the aim of boosting service among young people. His wife hardly saw him for weeks as he learnt of the needs, talked to all, and gradually was able to give the push that was needed. A "record request hour" at the hospital, help in the paraplegic

games evenings, the establishment of a toy repair centre, and a monthly social for the young people involved in these various voluntary jobs were all brought about under Robin's guidance. Even when, against his will, he had to retire to hospital, he continued to press on his visitors the needs of Toc H in Central Africa.

"There is much more that could be said, especially with regard to the Toc H Women's Association and the devotion of his wife Chrysta in the few months they had together. I know he will only rest happily if we who were associated with him in extending Toc H in Central Africa maintain the work which cost him so dearly."

FROM AUSTRALIA

In times past whenever a function had to be arranged in aid of a good cause Dudley Mathews was the Governor of S. Australia's right hand man. He was then a Branch Jobmaster but has since retired from the offices of Area Commissioner and President. He wrote recently: "The Society of the Sacred Mission has a lovely property just below Mount Lofty, with a wonderful view of Adelaide from its gardens of camellias. St. Martin's House is a training college for the Anglican priesthood throughout Australia. One day some of their fine men came to see me. Would I raise some money to enable them to build a new dining hall and kitchen and for other improvements?

"This appealed to me, so I called a small meeting with the Bishop of Adelaide's wife, Mrs. T. T. Reed, in the chair to arrange a garden fête in the grounds. (The Bishop himself is a dyed-in-the-wool Toc H member and, incidentally, attended the official opening of Toc H Headquarters on Tower Hill in 1960). The idea took on. We had forty stalls and all sorts of other attractions. More than three thousand people attended on November 26. Between eleven a.m. and five p.m. we raised five thousand three hundred Australian pounds (*not* dollars). We also inaugurated an appeal in *The Advertiser* which brought in ten thousand pounds for the same purpose. That was my job for 1966. I do not do much organizing nowadays."

There's not much doubt that this old hand is keeping his hand in, whatever he says!

In Wellington, New Zealand, ex-staff member Jack Davies, on right, and his wife Betty receive an oil painting to mark Jack's handing over of the chairmanship of the N.Z. Prisoners' Aid Society which owes its present strength to Jack's enthusiasm and Toc H's backing. Jack's successor is Bruce Laws, also holding the picture, a former Chairman of the Toc H Dominion Executive.

NOT A GOOD MATCH

JOHN CALLF

We are all in favour of more joint working between Toc H men and women, but has it been considered seriously enough what would happen if we took some of each others' jobs—hospital football broadcast commentaries, for example . . .?

GOOD AFTERNOON all you good people in St. Agatha's Hospital. My name is Thelma Lightbody and I am standing in for your usual Toc H football commentators because, I'm sorry to say, Stanley Gibson and Arthur Blenkinsop are down with 'flu and Michael Johnson is himself in St. Agatha's recovering from an appendix operation. Get well soon, Michael!

Much as you may think it a little unusual for a woman to give a commentary on a football match, it happens that I belong to a very sporting family and my two sons are always coming home and telling me about all the tries they have shot and all that sort of thing. So I expect we'll get along very nicely.

At this moment one of the teams is coming onto the field and you can hear the cheering. They are all wearing white shirts, except one man who has got a long yellow jumper. Why doesn't he wear the same as the rest, I wonder? I hope it isn't just vanity on his part; perhaps his mother knitted it for him and he doesn't want to hurt her feelings. I think it's in quick knit, and it looks like the pattern I tried out last December; but it told you to drop so many stitches that the silly thing simply fell to bits. I don't know who writes these patterns—they seem quite incapable of making themselves clear. However, I mustn't run on—funny, that's exactly what the second team has just done! They are in blue shirts, all except one man who also has a jumper on, a red one, and he is wearing a cloth cap. Perhaps he is a bit older than the others and is getting a little thin on top.

Someone has just whispered to me that the men in the jumpers are the goalkeepers; and now here's a funny thing. The teams have gone to opposite ends of the ground and are kicking the ball between themselves. I always thought the two teams played each other. I do hope this doesn't mean that they have quarrelled and are refusing to have anything to do with each other. Ah, now a little man in blue shorts and blazer has run onto the field and he's blowing a whistle. One of the blues and one of the whites have gone to meet him and they've all shaken hands, so it looks as though they've made up whatever differences they had and now they are getting ready to play.

The little man in the blue shorts is obviously the umpire. He's just blown his whistle again and the game has started. Now all the players are chasing after the ball all around the field. I wonder why they don't wait for it to come to them. I don't think these players can be very good. They keep running into one another and falling down. The shameful thing is that the crowd seems to like it. The ball is getting nearer to the blue goal and everyone is getting more and more excited. Oh dear, now the old goalkeeper in the red jumper has run into the middle of them to pick the ball up and kick it away to the other end of the field. He's spoilt all the fun they were having. Just as I thought, he must be old and unsociable.

Now the blues have got the ball at the other end. One of them has just kicked it ever so hard over the top of the goal into the crowd. Now why couldn't he have kicked it into the net and saved that nice young goalkeeper in the yellow jumper all the trouble of fetching it back from behind the goal? No wonder the spectators are cross with him.

I feel sorry for the umpire. Nobody seems to like him. He keeps running after the ball wherever it goes, but nobody has let him get

The real thing! George Eldridge describes an exciting incident at a Bournemouth & Boscombe home match. Photo: A. C. Woodley.

near enough to kick it yet, not even once. People in the crowd are calling him all sorts of rude names and the only man with any kind of sympathy for him is a middle-aged man standing near me who keeps shouting to him that he ought to wear glasses. That shows real human kindness, anyway.

One of the whites has just kicked the ball hard at the old goalkeeper in the red jumper who I don't think liked that, for he's punched it away right over the top of the goal. I don't think the whites liked him doing it because one of them has collected the ball and is walking away with it under his arm. Now I see what he's up to. He's put it down in the corner and he's going to have a private kick all to himself. The others are being very understanding about it and are just waiting in the goal to see how high he kicks it.

Oh my goodness! A dreadful thing has happened. When the man in the corner kicked the ball another of the whites with number nine on his back jumped up in the air to see where it was going and, do you know, it hit him right on the forehead and bounced into the net! The crowd has gone quite mad; it just doesn't seem to trouble them that it may have given poor number nine a nasty headache. What brutes they are! But anyhow some of the other whites are being very kind to him. Several of them have patted him on the back and one has actually kissed him. It's nice to know that these rough boys are really quite nice underneath. The umpire is very concerned about it too. He's even made them go back to the middle and start the game over again.

Please excuse me for one moment; there's a policeman here with an urgent message for me . . . It's from the Matron at St. Agatha's and she asks if we would close down the broadcast. Apparently a lot of the patients are running high temperatures and there's bad news of Michael Johnson too. He's burst his stitches. I can't think what they have found to get so excited about. Personally I think it's all been rather dull.

freedom of speech

"Afterthoughts on Overstrand"

WITH HILARITY of spirit I write the following —my reaction to that rather priggish and self-righteous article in the February JOURNAL, "Afterthoughts on Overstrand".

Hark a thrilling voice, sounding from the land of thick mists and mighty turnips, lays before us the vision spendid, the Toc H of the 1970's. Untainted by worldliness, spurning humanist ideals, knocking corners off scoundrels, we of Toc H maintain unsullied our cherished traditions. Let no vile atheist or agnostic hand be upon them. And, lest it prove an embarrassment to God-fearing Christian men (and padres), let us away with all commitment to "test in everyday life the relevance and truth of the Christian Faith." Let us nevertheless call upon all aforesaid scoundrels, humanists, atheists and agnostics to prove their worthiness and finally receive their reward, laid up for them from the beginning, to be pinned on by the righteous judge —the Chairman himself.

Come off it East Anglia!

Pickering, Yorks. JOHN E. BAYES

The Journal, 1967

I WOULD LIKE to offer congratulations on the JOURNAL's new look. We at Rhiwbina are having a folder made to stand permanently in the Rhiwbina Library Journal rack. The pocket size JOURNAL could not be displayed to the same advantage. Inside the folder will appear the names and addresses of the Branch officers, with telephone numbers, as it is felt that the JOURNAL may well in this way attract new members.

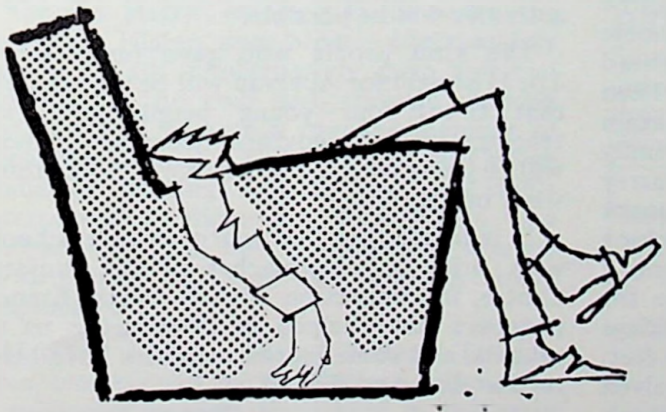
Cardiff. BADEN-POWELL GIDDY

Dropping the 'Aitch'

WHEN AND WHY did the 'h' drop out of Poper-ing(h)e?

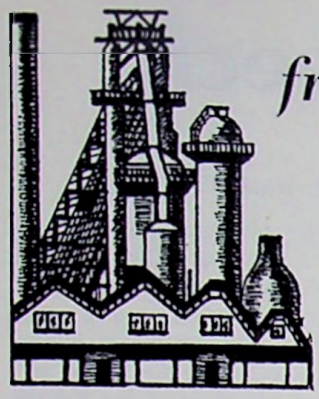
Southsea. RON H. CARPENTER

During World War I we used the French spelling of place names in the Salient such as Ypres and Poperinghe. Since 1945, *this being a part of Belgium that strongly prefers the Flemish language, the Flemish version of the names has been used—i.e.,* Ieper *and* Poperinge:—Ed.



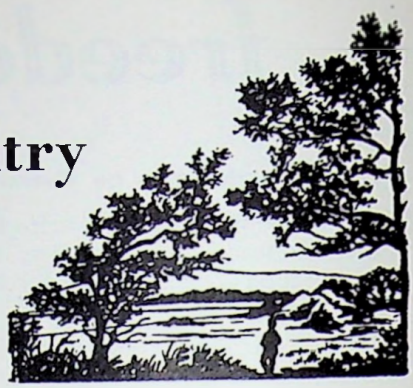
Ernie says:

"I'm sure our speaker won't mind if we bring round the grub while he goes on talking; will you, Mr. Hopkins?"



from town *and* country

News from Areas



SURREY AND SUSSEX

A new feature for our two Areas was a one-week holiday project over the New Year when eight young Volunteers and two members were resident at the WRVS holiday home for the handicapped, Crabhill House, South Nutfield. They arrived the day before the holiday-makers left and did a fair amount of spring cleaning. The whole place was washed down and some painting done. There were outings to the Toc H Centre at Croydon, a New Year's party with Banstead Branch, who do a great deal of entertaining at Crabhill House, and a guest-night for local members. But the important part was the members of the group getting to know each other, working hard at worthwhile jobs, and learning much about Toc H in the process.

The plans in Surrey for summer holiday projects of an Area nature are going ahead full blast. For a fortnight in July we shall be supplying the staff for another holiday home for the handicapped, this time Leatherhead Court's home at Westcliff-on-Sea. Then there will be our large boys' camp. once again in conjunction with the East London Family Service Unit, though this year at Surrey Education Committee's excellent permanent site high up on the Hog's Back, overlooking Guildford. We have also offered to send a team of Volunteers to a children's home for that last frantic week of the school holidays when the staff have been run off their feet. With the number of people becoming involved in Toc H as a result of these ventures I think one Area at least is beginning to learn from the examples given in these pages over the years.

RAY FABES

SOUTH WALES & MONMOUTHSHIRE

On the morning of February 3 we moved into our new CARDIFF Centre at 13 Richmond Road. This was just in time for ROATH Branch's tea party for physically handicapped people whom NEWPORT Branch had taken to the pantomime in Cardiff.

Two men's and a women's Branch are already using the Centre, also about thirty to forty Volunteers. And the flourishing fortnightly Lunch Group as well as the Saturday morning 'Coffee Ladies' will welcome their 'regulars'and of course any visitors to Cardiff. There have been several applications for the use of the rooms, and when the two downstairs rooms have been thrown into one other activities will be possible.

The kind people who gave funds for a Toc H project for Abervan will be glad to hear that twenty-four young people and two teachers from Troedyrhiw Secondary School will be going with me to Dor Knap in the third week of July.

It is interesting that when visiting schools with Bridget Pulvermacher of the Projects Centre, in connection with Projects, Branch members have helped in introducing us to schools, and some lapsed members have been re-introduced to Toc H.

GEORGE ATKINSON

EASTERN LONDON

In July 1954 one of the first clubs for the physically handicapped in Essex came into being through the combined efforts of Barking Corporation, the Shaftesbury Society (who provided their Greig Hall) and BARKING Branch of Toc H, who provided the manpower. The name the club chose for itself, "The Happy Wanderers", may seem a little pathetic, but it proved prophetic, though transport was certainly a problem in the early days. There was never more than one car available at a time, with the result that members were still arriving at the meeting when the first comers were ready to go home!

However, thanks to Toc H representation on Barking Physically Handicapped Welfare Committee, the energetic backing of Alderman Mrs. Bugwell and the untiring work of Council staff member George Ruff, with the help of Essex County Council a vehicle was bought and converted for the special needs of club members. Ted White of Barking Toc H, a helper from the start, was appointed voluntary transport officer. Later a specially designed coach reinforced its well-worn predecessor and by that time both coaches had become involved in a wide variety of service for the physically handicapped. For over twelve years Ted fully controlled all bookings, sometimes doing the driving himself, and arranged rotas of drivers for the coaches which were housed in Barking Corporation's transport yard. Eventually Ted had to resign as transport officer for health reasons, but still drives for the Happy Wanderers.

'Charley Harry', as Greig Hall's padre, the Rev. C. R. Hislop, soon became affectionately known to all, unobtrusively gave spiritual strength to the club and, through meeting Toc H there, became a founder member of Becontree Branch. Until his death George Crane of Barking Toc H was the club's entertainment officer and Ernie Finch, who worked with him, now continues to arrange performances for the club and in many hospitals too.

Helpers include three Eastern London Area members—Charlie Nottage who came from Becontree Toc H to help in the early

Specially drawn for the RNLI by Eric Fraser FSIA

his life is in your hands

almost as much as in theirs

Snatched from the sea by gallant men, volunteers in the life-boat service. Remember they need your contributions, your support. Give now and help save lives.

Donations and legacies to:
ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION
42 GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON S.W.1.
Treasurer: The Duke of Northumberland, K.G.
Secretary: Stirling Whorlow, O.B.E.

RNLI

H. R. H. Princess Margaret at the opening of the Grange Farm, Chigwell, Occupational Centre. Alf Hawkins is on her left. Photo: Photographic News Agencies Ltd.

days, a one-time treasurer and the present leader of the club; George Richards, an earlier helper; and myself, who had the privilege of being the Happy Wanderers' first leader.

The original annual outings were "bring your own cutlery" efforts, with WICKFORD Toc H as hosts. Now there are trips further afield, and in winter visits to the London Palladium and other shows. In the summer groups set off in their coach for a week in a specially converted house at Clacton.

Now to give you the history of Alf Hawkins, seen in the accompanying photograph on the left of H.R.H. Princess Margaret. Alf was a baker by trade and a member of Becontree Toc H, who helped with the Happy Wanderers and in 1956 succeeded Tom Williams as leader. In 1958 the club moved to Eastbury House, Barking. Alf was now studying Welfare Work for the physically handicapped and helped to prepare one of the first Occupational Centres for them in the country. It opened in January 1959 with Alf as its paid organiser. May 1961 saw his transfer to Ilford Occupational Centre, and in September 1966 he became head of Chigwell House, the last word in Occupational Centres, which in October last year was honoured by a visit from Princess Margaret.

Outstandingly close co-operation between Barking Corporation and Toc H continues to be the order of the day, with the imaginative help of Alderman Mrs. Bredo, particularly in conjunction with Essex County Council, and that of successive Mayors who have been active Presidents of the club.

An interesting closing note takes us on into the next generation, as Ted White's son Frank, now a member of Barking Toc H, is leader of "The Spartans", a youth club for the physically handicapped.

ERNIE WOOD

ROYAL VISIT TO THE OLD HOUSE

Reprints are available of the photograph of Her Majesty the Queen's visit to the Old House which appears on the cover page of the Annual Report supplement in this issue. Printed on heavy art paper with 1" surround, suitable for framing, price 2s. post free from Toc H Publications Dept. Proceeds to the Old House Dry Rot Fund.

The Great Student Debate

Should students be allowed to take 'direct action'? Something to argue about in Branches.

"I SAY YES"— — — — — JOHN MELLOR

John, of Mark II, is a nineteen-year-old student at Ealing Technical College who is taking a B.A. Business Degree through a Sandwich Course sponsored by Shell-Mex & B.P.

HOWEVER MUCH Mr. Wilson may disagree with Mr. Jay's feelings on the Common Market Mr. Jay still enjoys that basic privilege of the British race—"Freedom of Speech." Surely Freedom of Speech is the most powerful argument in favour of militant action by students in matters in which they have a deep and responsible interest and to which they can make a worthwhile contribution.

A body of students, by using their right to demonstrate selectively and in proper circumstances, can exercise some control over both public and government feeling. This has been seen recently when, after a day of vigorous student lobbying, many M.P.'s abstained from voting on the question as to whether overseas students should be charged higher fees at British educational establishments. The high number of abstentions may be attributed in part to the well organised student demonstrations.

Not without reason recent controversy has centred around demonstrations in central London by students of the London School of Economics. This College tends to be divorced from other Universities in England as it has an extremely high percentage of foreign and radical students specialising almost solely in Social Studies. Its recent irresponsible action was aimed solely at an internal figure, had no national union backing, and succeeded only in inconveniencing many people and lowering respect for students throughout the country. As such the action taken at the L.S.E. is rightly condemned by most as the wrong way to tackle an internal problem. The criticism in the press of these militant actions shows that it is essential that when students decide to act in support of their feelings they do it in a responsible and organised manner, with the backing of the N.U.S.

An oft-voiced argument to which many subscribe is that students attend college at the tax payers' expense to learn and study rather than to draw attention to themselves by demonstrations.

This argument is, I believe, ill-founded, for the vast majority of students have to work extremely hard if they are to pass their final examinations. During their period of study it is only right and natural that they should develop reasoned views on matters of national importance. Should they see that an injustice is being done in this field they should come together to show the country just where their feelings lie. The student population of Great Britain is, after all, high, and if this large mass of opinion, through the N.U.S., is supporting or opposing national measures, it must be heard and the students' opinions noted. To make a final point against the argument stated at the start of this paragraph one could equally well say that workers in a publicly-owned industry should not have the right to strike or air their views—but those who advocate this quickly find themselves unpopular with many of those adopting the same argument against students.

It is worth remembering that the next generation will find itself led and governed by just these students whom it is today condemning for airing their views on controversial subjects of the sort they will be deciding on in possibly a decade's time.

The student may broaden his knowledge by entering demonstrations not specifically designed for him. Many students are active over the Vietnam war and, provided action is not irresponsible, this is to be encouraged, for by meeting others he can expound his viewpoint and hear a variety of opinions. Most students are, of course, mature enough to realize that there are two sides to any question and it is to be hoped that the student will give as much thought to opposing views as he does to his own. It is only when he can completely justify his actions that he should take an active part in demonstrations.

The N.U.S. most commendably refrains from supporting political demonstrations as it rightly maintains that the correct place for politics is in the student political bodies. If these bodies want to demonstrate in support of their views then they must do so not as a student body but as part of an open political demonstration.

The student therefore has a basic right to take militant action in support of his views. This right does not, however, stretch to unruliness and 'mob-rioting' as has been witnessed in recent months. It is to be hoped that in future students will think long and hard before staging demonstrations of the kind recently witnessed at the L.S.E. rather than possibly being pushed into action by those with radical feelings. Let them remember always that the young are radical and as such their opinions may be greeted with scepticism by those older than themselves.

One sentence, perhaps, sums up the best argument:—Were the young not critical, and did they not air their criticisms, they would be worse than useless.

"I SAY NO"——— PETER HARGRAVE

The writer is a Toc H member of middle age.

SHOULD STUDENTS be allowed to involve themselves in politics and administration to the extent of direct and sometimes violent action? The growing urgency of this question has been highlighted in recent weeks by the unfortunate death of a porter at the London School of Economics during mob action by students.

To see the danger of student irresponsibility at its worst one has to look abroad. In China the Red Guards seem to have created national chaos and a governmental paralysis which Chairman Mao (if he survives it all) may find hard to set right. In Indonesia the present generation of students is trying to dethrone the very man students of an earlier generation helped to deify. In India students who traditionally are ready to riot over anything or nothing are now hacking away at India's already shaky democracy. Anyone who has been in Calcutta, for example, knows how student riots are liable to touch off an outbreak of violence that may end with buildings in flames and dead bodies in the roadway. These young people are an ever-ready tool in the hands of unscrupulous politicians.

Before we reassure ourselves that this kind of thing cannot happen in the older western democracies let us remember the disturbances at Berkeley, California, and here at our own L.S.E.—both evidence that it is now more likely to happen than ever before. Sadly enough the very fact that our country is not now at war, as it has been every twenty years or so, may be a contributing factor in that in at least a proportion of young people an accumulated urge to violence may be seeking other outlets.

Some folk may argue that since in war time young men of eighteen are trained to use violence and to kill on behalf of their country, at that age they should be equally entitled to take direct action on anything about which they feel strongly. This is illogical. In time of war a young man may be called up by the legally established government, though he is, of course, free to register as a conscientious objector, when he will be directed to some

other activity. If called up he will be under strict control, be told what to do, what not to do, whom to fight and whom not to fight. If he is irresponsible and tries to take an independent line he will end up in the 'cooler'; if he accepts the discipline he may eventually be entrusted with the responsibility of a lance-corporal's stripe or even an officer's pip, but he will still be working within a tightly controlled system.

But all this bears no relation to the student's claim of licence to take uncontrolled and sometimes illegal action. To be called upon to fight in the country's war is not the same as claiming the right to declare war on one's own.

Others may argue that students have often fought for the right things and have resisted tyrannies and injustices. Fair enough, but I fancy that student extremism has probably started more wars than it has stopped, and produced many more messy situations than it has ever cleaned up. Students have not yet sufficient experience of life to know that government or any other kind of administration is never as easy as it appears, that always in the end it is "the art of the possible" and is not amenable to violent pressures.

Inevitably one is bound to refer to the famous Oxford Union vote in 1933, "That this House will in no circumstances fight for its King and Country". The possible influence this may have had on Hitler's decision to go to war may easily be exaggerated. No-one with any commonsense, it can be said, will take a student debate too seriously. But any undergraduate will tell you that dictators do not possess commonsense. How many of those Oxford Union voters, one wonders, died a few years later fighting for King and Country?

It would be absurd to argue that students should keep right out of politics. The more interest they take and the more they sharpen their political wits in debate, the better equipped they will be for responsible citizenship in their post-graduate days. But when students try to interfere with properly appointed authority is it not time to draw the line?

The recent L.S.E. rumpus was because some students wanted to have a say in who the School's new Director should be and this seems typical of a world-wide growing tendency for students to claim the right to rule their own roost. Has not the time come when our students should be told that their proper job is to study and that while they are doing this at government expense they should either accept the authorities set over them by the government—or get out?

. . . we will remember them

Butler—On October 14, Leonard Butler, a North Western Area member. Elected 1926.

Cockburn—On January 6, John Jenkinson Cockburn, aged 79, of Looe Branch. Elected 1965.

Cutler—On February 2, Beresford Coverley Cutler, of Cosham Branch. Elected 1930.

Daniels—On February 18, John James Daniels, aged 56, of Chatham Branch. Elected 1947.

Freeman—On January 13, Leonard George Freeman, aged 72, of former Bilsington Branch. Elected 1950.

Haythornthwaite—On February 18, the Rev. James Haythornthwaite, aged 87. Padre of Bakewell Branch. Elected 1960.

Hill—On February 14, Ernest Hill, aged 55, of Ripley Branch, formerly of Riddings. Elected 1956.

Hoare—On February 14, Captain Stephen Leonard Hoare, O.B.E., aged 73, of Cumbernauld Branch. Elected 1953.

Merry—On January 25, Frederick Merry, aged 53, of Highams Park Branch. Elected 1948.

Newell—In January, Jack Newell, aged 52, of Buckland (Dover) Branch, formerly of Harrogate. Elected 1960.

Pitt-Pulford—On January 24, Harry G. Pitt-Pulford, aged 82, a founder member of Sheringham Branch. Elected 1935.

Price—On January 16, Charles Price, aged 93, of Vancouver Branch. Elected 1961.

Vosper—On December 22, Archibald Roger Vosper, aged 82, of Plymouth Branch. Elected 1933.

Wilton—On January 18, William J. C. Wilton, of Lincoln Branch. Elected 1933.

Youngs—On December 24, Herbert Youngs, aged 73, of Ashington Branch. Elected 1930.

In the Know

Notes from the General Secretary

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY, Monday, May 29, is DOR KNAP OPEN DAY. This has become a red-letter day in the Dor Knap calendar and plans this year should, as in the past, ensure the continued success of the occasion. The Morris Dancers will be there again. There will be a (working) party in residence in the House at the week-end and a few vacant places still remain. Any wishing to be included are asked to write to Cyril Cattell at Headquarters for details. All other enquiries regarding the Open Day to the Warden at Dor Knap.

DOR KNAP. Leaders of parties which do not include a padre are advised that the Regional Padre, the Rev. DAVID ROBERTS, has kindly offered to place his services at their disposal if so desired. Please give David good notice and contact him at Toc H Mark VI, 6 Wake Green Road, Birmingham 13. (Tel.: South 0565).

VETERANS' PARTY TO TALBOT HOUSE, POPERINGE. This will take place from Monday, September 4 to Friday, September 8, and will be led by JACK CLARK. Further details may be had on application to Miss Josephine Banham at Headquarters.

MARK XX, PUTNEY. The date of the official opening of the new extension has been postponed until the evening of Thursday, May 18. Full details will appear next month.

MUSIC FOR COLSTERDALE. On June 10 the Leeds District are organising a Brass Band and Choir Concert, the proceeds from which will go to the Colsterdale Centre Appeal.

THE LIST OF REGIONS, Areas, Districts, Branches, etc., and principal addresses of the Women's Association, will be in the May JOURNAL.

"TAPING TOC H". An excellent opportunity to explore the creative uses of the tape-recorder in Toc H will be the Dor Knap week-end July 7-9. It will be led by HARRY GELL and CYRIL CATTELL. Full details may be had from the latter at Headquarters.

HEADQUARTERS APPOINTMENTS:

ERIC CAULTON has been appointed Builders' Secretary, and MALCOLM WARMAN Book-keeper (Mark).

ALAN BROOKE, H.P.C. for Norfolk Division, has recently moved his home to 61 Icknield Way, Thetford, Norfolk.

JOHN JANS who, until he left the Toc H staff to return to Australia, was a member of the S.E. Regional Team in Eastern London Area, has now moved with his wife to their new home at Flat 4, 3 Swinton Avenue, Kew, E.4, Victoria, Australia.

TOC H (MANCHESTER) RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB. Thirty-two teams are entered for the seventeenth annual Seven-a-Side Competition to take place at Stenner Lane, Didsbury, Manchester, on Saturday, April 29. Toc H, as holders of the 1966 Winners' Pennant, will be out to defend their title.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY, JUNE 15. On this day children think and learn about children in other countries, with special emphasis upon those who need help. The World Children's Day Committee produces and distributes an information pack (available free of charge from May 1) to help teachers, youth leaders and all those who would like to learn more about the aims of the Day and tell others about it. Further particulars from: World Children's Day Committee, 123 Regent Street, London, W.1, or The Save the Children Fund, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.

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